

A Success in the Fight Against Ebola

By Goodluck Jonathan

January 7, 2014

Last July, when we learned a Liberian man had tested positive for Ebola in our most populated city in Nigeria we knew our response had to be swift and far-reaching to prevent the massive death and devastation that this disease leaves in its wake.

As the World Health Organization (WHO) – a vital partner in our efforts – prepares to hold a special session this month on the Ebola response in West Africa, I encourage everyone to heed the lessons learned from Nigeria’s successful approach of treatment, containment and education.

The 2014 outbreak of Ebola was one of the most significant global health crises in recent decades. While the crisis continues in several countries – most notably in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea – my Administration was able to implement an emergency management strategy that consisted of hiring of additional health care staff, closely monitoring those who had been in contact with the disease and educating of our citizens about the effects of Ebola.

The end result was the complete eradication of the disease just weeks after it was discovered in the city of Lagos, home to 21 million of our citizens. The steps that my Administration took can serve as a model for our neighbors as they work to stem the tide of this virus – one that has taken nearly 8,000 lives and infected tens of thousands of others.

Once this first case of infection was detected, we took immediate steps to establish a command center that would serve as a coordinating body to manage the nation’s response. We knew that without proper containment, Nigeria faced a potential outbreak on an unimaginable scale; it is Africa’s most populous nation and contains several densely populated, impoverished cities.

Despite a lack of trained medical personnel and infrastructure in place at the time, the Nigerian government began providing financial incentives for doctors and nurses, as well as offering life insurance to many of the brave men and women treating the infected. These steps attracted the qualified personnel necessary for comprehensive care. The outcome was Nigeria suffering just 8 deaths from the virus.

In addition to these actions, we took the equally important step of implementing a coordinated surveillance and containment program to limit the spread of Ebola. Given the sheer size and density of cities like Lagos – and the lack of infrastructure already in place – these procedures were labor intensive, but ultimately the reason why Nigeria, unlike its neighbors thus far, was able to stamp out the virus.

While this policy has drawn some criticism, I adamantly support it. Without taking this step, we risked losing touch with those who had potentially contracted the virus. As important, this monitoring ensured that those potentially infected did not have contact with the general population while displaying symptoms. Measures included physical observation of anyone who had contact with the disease at both locations of the outbreak – Lagos and Port Harcourt – on a daily basis for 21 days, at which point a person was determined to be clear of the virus.

At the height of its efforts, the government was monitoring over 500 people in this manner – a task that took incredible coordination and manpower. My Administration made this decision because we knew that the most effective way to defeat the virus in Nigeria was to keep meticulous records on every at-risk person in our population. Monitoring was also ramped up at the nation's points of entry and a rapid response strategy was put in place to quickly isolate anyone showing symptoms upon arrival to the country. This included the immediate construction of isolation wards at these designated locations and the building of facilities designed specifically for the purpose of treating the infected.

We could not have successfully eradicated this disease alone. We worked closely with prominent organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders. Within days we recognized the magnitude of the challenge we faced and knew it would take a coordinated effort to prevent an outbreak within its borders. Nigeria's innovative and aggressive approach gave each of these partners a role in the Ebola strategy team that met daily and made policy decisions, removing potential bottlenecks and proving to be a highly efficient response that other countries should seek to replicate. Welcoming outside expertise has been a challenge for some countries, but this collaboration was key to being able to declare the country Ebola-free within 12 weeks of the initial outbreak – perhaps the biggest accomplishment yet in the fight to eradicate the disease from Africa.

As this deadly outbreak continues into the New Year, all efforts must be taken by the international community to see that the successful model designed by the Nigerian government is applied to the nations that continue to suffer from this devastating virus. We look forward to working in tandem with groups such as the WHO so that we can collectively make 2015 the year that Africa is declared Ebola-free.

Goodluck Jonathan is president of Nigeria.

A Success in the Fight Against Ebola

By Goodluck Jonathan

January 10, 2014

In the coming days, the World Health Organization will hold a special meeting to discuss the 2014 outbreak of the Ebola virus and the response in Africa and elsewhere. The goal of the session is to identify best practices to address a similar outbreak of contagious disease in the future. While a number of countries were forced to take on Ebola outbreaks – or the threat of an outbreak – Nigeria due to its West African proximity and extensive borders and ports was particularly at risk.

The toll of the 2014 Ebola outbreak was significant – one of the worst global health crises in recent decades – and sobering – 8,000 souls lost and tens of thousands of others infected. While the crisis continues in several countries – including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea – Nigeria implemented a coordinated emergency management strategy that treated those infected quickly, identified and monitored those in contact with the disease, and perhaps most important, educated our citizens about the risks and effects of Ebola.

The result was the complete eradication of the disease just weeks after it was discovered in the city of Lagos, home to 21 million of our citizens. We have much to learn about dealing with crises like this, but I believe my nation's response and the best practices developed (my Ministry of Health details many of these lessons in a recently released review of our strategy) can help put in place a model approach to address future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

First, a ready, coordinated, is important, but flexibility is crucial.

Last July, a Liberian man tested positive for Ebola in Lagos, our most populated city. We knew our response had to be swift and far-reaching to prevent the massive death toll and devastation that this disease leaves in its wake. For some time, we've had a prepared response plan on paper, but had never actually had to activate it, so there were challenges to be addressed along the way.

For example, once this first case of infection was detected, we took immediate steps to establish a command center that would serve as a coordinating body to manage the nation's response. But our government's health infrastructure lacked the specially trained medical staffs to deal with this crisis, so we put in place a program that offered non-government doctors and nurses financial incentives and benefits, such as life insurance. These steps attracted the many qualified brave men and women necessary for comprehensive care.

Beyond “staffing up,” we couldn’t be locked into a strategy that had never been tested, so we adjusted our management and treatment tactics as events dictated. When it became clear the disease epicenter might have shifted from Lagos to Port Harcourt, we moved our command center to that locale, while keeping senior health officials in place to continue managing the site of the initial outbreak. This ensured the same approach working in Lagos would be implemented in the new potential outbreak zone.

Second, while labor intensive and sometimes invasive to communities, aggressive controls of borders and ports of entry and monitoring of potential victims is necessary. This policy has drawn criticism, but given the many points of entry to our country by land, sea and air and sheer size and density of cities like Lagos – and the lack of infrastructure– these procedures are ultimately the reason why Nigeria has, unlike its neighbours thus far, stamped out the virus.

Without taking this step, we risked losing touch with those who had potentially contracted the virus and ensured that those potentially infected did not have contact with the general population. Those prospective patients showing symptoms upon arrival to the country were quickly moved to treatment wards set up to specifically treat the infected. More broadly, we identified all those who came into contact with Ebola-positive patients, provided each with a thermometer, educated them on the symptoms and the importance of being quarantined and monitored. We set up a daily monitoring protocol for each individual in Lagos and Port Harcourt for 21 days, at which point a person was determined to be clear of the virus.

At the height of our efforts, we were monitoring over 500 people in this manner – a task that took incredible coordination and manpower. We made this decision because we knew that the most effective way to defeat the virus in Nigeria was to keep meticulous records on every at-risk person in our population.

Third, leveraged appropriately, transparency and technology are crucial tools.

Nigeria greatly depends on mobile communications. The vast majority of our population has smartphones and uses them to communicate, access the Internet, or watch video content. In many parts of my country, mobile broadband is the only way our citizens can stay informed. So it was important that our Ebola strategy leverage these communications tools to educate our people about Ebola and our efforts to contain the spread of the disease.

Through a website that was easily accessible via mobile, we kept our citizens informed about what was happening as best we could in real time. The expectation was that in being as transparent as possible, we could dispel the natural inclination for rumors and inaccuracies to spread. To that end, we also closely monitored our national, regional and local media – TV, radio and the Internet, including social networks like Facebook – and quickly responded to and corrected inaccurate reporting and information.

Our mobile strategy also was crucial in our monitoring tactics. All of our health care workers were provided with smartphones as were those individuals we were monitoring. This ensured that should a monitored patient develop a certain set of symptoms, our teams could move quickly to further care for the patients. Any future Ebola response should absolutely leverage mobile technologies and applications that can incorporate location-based services, information sharing and health-care monitoring.

Finally, national responses must include international groups so that best practices can be learned, shared and put into action elsewhere in real time.

Nigeria's Ebola response would not have been as successful without the coordinated efforts of partner organizations. Welcoming outside expertise has been a challenge for some countries, but this collaboration was key to being able to declare the country Ebola-free within 12 weeks of the initial outbreak – perhaps the biggest accomplishment yet in the fight to eradicate the disease from Africa. Organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders helped us address the massive challenge of prevent an epidemic. Our aggressive approach gave each of these partners a role in the Ebola strategy team that met daily and made policy decisions, removing potential bottlenecks and implementing a highly efficient response that other countries should seek to replicate. To date, the death toll from Ebola in Nigeria stands at eight victims, a number unsatisfactory in the cost of a human life, but far lower than any other African country.

As this deadly outbreak continues into the New Year, all efforts must be taken by the international community to see best practices from the successful model designed by the Nigerian government are shared and incorporated in others nations' responses to this devastating virus. We look forward to working in tandem with groups such as the WHO so that we can collectively make 2015 the year that Africa is declared Ebola-free.

Goodluck Jonathan is president of Nigeria.

A Success in the Fight Against Ebola

By Goodluck Jonathan

January 12, 2014

Later this month, the World Health Organization will hold a special meeting on the response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak. The goal of the session is to identify best practices to address future, similar outbreaks of contagious disease. While a number of countries confronted Ebola outbreaks, Nigeria due to its West African proximity and extensive borders and ports was particularly at risk.

The toll was significant – one of the worst global health crises in recent decades – and sobering; 8,000 souls lost and tens of thousands of others infected. While the crisis continues in several countries – including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea – Nigeria implemented a coordinated emergency management strategy that treated those infected quickly, identified and monitored those in contact with the disease, and perhaps most important, educated our citizens about the risks and effects of Ebola. We invested more than \$10 million in our country as well as providing more than \$3 million in aid to our neighbors to fight this disease.

The result was the complete eradication of Ebola just weeks after it was discovered. We have much to learn about dealing with crises like this, but I believe my nation's response and the best practices developed (my Ministry of Health details these lessons in a recent report) can help put in place a model approach to address future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

First, a coordinated plan, is important, but flexibility is crucial.

Last July, a Liberian man tested positive for Ebola in Lagos, home to 21 million citizens making it our most populated city. We knew our response had to be swift and far-reaching to prevent a massive death toll.

Once this case was detected we immediately established a command center to manage the nation's response. But our government's health infrastructure lacked the specially trained medical staffs to deal with this crisis, so we instituted a program that offered non-government doctors and nurses financial incentives such as life insurance. This attracted the many qualified brave men and women necessary for comprehensive care.

Beyond "staffing up," we had to be able to adjust our management and treatment tactics as events dictated. When it became clear the disease epicenter might have shifted from Lagos to Port Harcourt, we moved our command center, while keeping senior health officials in place to continue managing the site of the initial outbreak. This ensured the same approach working in Lagos would be implemented in the new potential outbreak zone.

Second, while labor intensive and sometimes invasive to communities, aggressive controls of borders and ports and monitoring of potential victims is necessary. This policy has drawn criticism, but given the many points of entry to our country and the sheer density of cities like Lagos that lack infrastructure, these procedures are ultimately the reason why Nigeria has, unlike its neighbours thus far, stamped out the virus.

Without taking this step, we risked losing touch with those who had potentially contracted the virus and ensured that those potentially infected did not have contact with the general population. Those prospective patients showing symptoms upon arrival to the country were quickly moved to specialty treatment wards. More broadly, we identified all those who came into contact with Ebola-positive patients, provided each with a thermometer, educated them on the symptoms and the importance of being quarantined and monitored. We set up a daily monitoring protocol for each individual for 21 days, at which point a person was determined to be clear of the virus.

At the height of our efforts, we were monitoring over 500 people – a task that took incredible coordination and manpower. We made this decision because we knew that the most effective way to defeat the virus was to keep meticulous records on every at-risk person in our population.

Third, leveraged appropriately, transparency and technology are crucial tools.

Nigeria greatly depends on mobile communications. The vast majority of our population uses smartphones to communicate and access the Internet. It was important that our strategy leverage these tools to educate our people about Ebola and our efforts to contain the spread of the disease.

Through a website that was easily accessible via mobile, we kept our citizens informed in real time. Being as transparent as possible, we could dispel the natural inclination for rumors and inaccuracies to spread. To that end, we also closely monitored our media – TV, radio and the Internet, including social networks like Facebook – and quickly responded to and corrected inaccurate information.

Any future Ebola response should absolutely use mobile technologies that can incorporate location-based services, information sharing and health-care monitoring.

Finally, national responses must include international groups so that best practices can be learned, shared and deployed in real time.

Nigeria's Ebola response would not have been as successful without the coordinated efforts of partner organizations. Welcoming outside expertise has been a challenge for some countries, but this collaboration was key to being able to declare the country Ebola-free within 12 weeks of the initial outbreak. Organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders helped us address the massive challenge of

preventing an epidemic. Our approach gave each partner a role in the Ebola team that met daily and made policy decisions, removing potential bottlenecks and implementing a highly efficient response that other countries should seek to replicate. To date, the death toll from Ebola in Nigeria stands at eight victims, a number unsatisfactory in the cost of a human life, but far lower than any other African country.

As this deadly outbreak continues all efforts must be taken by the international community to see best practices from Nigeria's successful model are shared and incorporated in others nations' responses to this devastating virus. We look forward to working with our partners to make 2015 the year that Africa is declared Ebola-free.

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We can offer a model for others based on coordination,
border controls and technology.



Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. (Photo: Olatunji Omirin, AFP/Getty Images)

While a number of West African countries confronted the Ebola epidemic, Nigeria was particularly at risk due to its proximity and extensive borders and ports.

The global toll from Ebola was significant and sobering: 8,000 souls lost and tens of thousands of others infected. While the crisis continues in several countries – including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea — Nigeria implemented a coordinated emergency management strategy that treated those infected quickly, identified and monitored those in contact with the disease, and perhaps most important, educated our citizens about the risks and effects of Ebola. The result was the complete eradication of Ebola in Nigeria just weeks after it was discovered.

On Sunday, the World Health Organization will hold a special meeting on the response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak, and we plan to share what we've learned. I believe my nation's

response and the best practices developed by my Ministry of Health can help put in place a model approach to address future outbreaks of infectious diseases.

First, a coordinated plan is important, but flexibility is crucial.

Last July, when a Liberian man tested positive for Ebola in Lagos, our most populated city with 21 million citizens, we knew our response had to be swift and far-reaching to prevent a massive death toll. We immediately established a command center to manage the nation's response.

Nigeria had long had a contagious disease response plan on file, but had never had to mobilize it, so we needed to adjust to unforeseen circumstances. For example, our government's health infrastructure lacked the necessary numbers of specially trained medical staffs to deal with this crisis, so we instituted a program that offered non-government doctors and nurses' financial incentives, such as life insurance. This attracted the qualified, brave men and women necessary for comprehensive care.

When it became clear the disease epicenter might have shifted from Lagos to Port Harcourt, we moved our command center there, while keeping senior health officials in Lagos to continue managing initial outbreak response. This ensured the same approach working in Lagos would be implemented in Port Harcourt.

Second aggressive controls of borders and ports and monitoring of potential victims is necessary. This policy has drawn criticism because it is labor intensive and sometimes invasive to communities, but given the many points of entry to our country and the sheer density of cities like Lagos, these procedures are ultimately the reason why Nigeria has, unlike its neighbors thus far, stamped out the virus.

Without taking this step, we risked losing touch with those who had potentially contracted the virus and ensured that those potentially infected did not have contact with the general population. People showing symptoms upon arrival to Nigeria were quickly moved to treatment wards. More broadly, we identified all those who came into contact with Ebola-positive patients, provided each with a thermometer, educated them on the symptoms and the importance of being quarantined and monitored. We set up a daily monitoring protocol, keeping meticulous records for each individual for 21 days, at which point a person was determined to be clear of the virus.

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Our approach gave each partner a role in the Ebola team that met daily and made strategic and tactical decisions, removing potential bottlenecks and implementing a highly efficient response. To date, the death toll from Ebola in Nigeria stands at eight victims, a number unsatisfactory in the cost of a human life, but far lower than any other African country.

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Why is the U.S. stiff-arming Nigeria?

The January 5 editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* titled, “#BokoHaram is Winning,” should serve as a wake-up call to the Obama administration. News reports of the ruthless, radical Islamist terrorist group’s takeover of an army base followed by the multi-national anti-Boko Haram force abandoning another base just yesterday is cause for great concern to Nigeria and its neighbors.

The focus of recent reporting has been on the deteriorating relationship between the Obama Administration and Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan. The reporting carries the usual themes of mutual distrust due to the Nigerian perceptions of U.S. arrogance and lack of engagement on strategic issues on everything from oil and trade policy to national security issues, such as Boko Haram and China’s activities in the region, to U.S. charges of Nigerian government corruption. While those are valid causes for caution, the only entity that benefits from the lack of engagement cooperation is Boko Haram. With over 5,000 innocents slaughtered since 2009 and no signs of that onslaught letting up, Boko Haram has brought a level of terror and barbarism to West Africa that is akin to Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS).

Boko Haram means “Western education is forbidden” in the Hausa language. The name itself is a clue to its goals and ferocity. But why is Boko Haram focused on Nigeria? Certainly it has to do with the large Muslim population in the country. But it has just as much to do with the policies and actions of Jonathan and his administration.

President Jonathan is perhaps one of the most western-oriented leaders on the African continent. He has been intent on westernizing Nigeria through aggressive reforms in education, [economic development](#) and diversity (job creation and a focus on building sectors outside of the oil industry, such as [tech](#)) and women’s rights. And he and his administration have attempted to take on the overhang of corruption with government accountability and transparency policies.

He has also focused much of his administrations attention – especially in education – in the predominantly Muslim north of the country. Under President Jonathan, more than 1,200 schools and universities have been built in the north (nine universities and 1,200 primary/secondary schools).

It’s no coincidence that this anti-western terrorist group has risen in direct parallel to Goodluck Jonathan’s push to westernize Nigeria. And it’s also not a surprise that this U.S. president and his State Department – as it has done across Africa’s continent – has dropped the ball in what many foreign policy experts believed would be a critical strategic goal in blunting a regional terrorist threat encouraging growth in a fast-developing economy.

The United States should have an interest in Nigeria if only to help Africa’s largest country – population 170 million – fight the common enemy that is Boko Haram. But there is another geopolitical imperative at stake. China continues to build its foothold in Africa and the Chinese are targeting Nigeria for its oil and other natural resources and strategic western Africa location.

By all accounts, Nigeria's government is committed to taking on Boko Haram on its own terms, but has been seeking aid for heavy military equipment and weaponry to take the terrorists on. The Obama administration should be providing the kind of support the Nigerians are requesting, if not because of the terrorist threat, then the strategic value of having a strong ally in the region that looks to the west.

Why is the US stiff-arming Nigeria?

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The focus of recent reporting has been on the deteriorating relationship between the Obama Administration and Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan. The reporting carries the usual themes of mutual distrust due to the Nigerian perceptions of US arrogance and US charges of Nigerian government corruption. While those are valid causes for caution, the only group that benefits from the lack of cooperation is Boko Haram. With over 5,000 innocents slaughtered since 2009 and no signs of letting up, Boko Haram has brought a level of terror and barbarism to West Africa that is akin to Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (ISIS).

Boko Haram means “Western education is forbidden” in the Hausa language. The name itself is a clue to its existence and ferocity. But for those in the West who are unfamiliar with Nigeria, the context is as much about the vision backed by the policies and actions of President Goodluck Jonathan and his administration.

President Jonathan, were he an American, would certainly be seen as a political progressive. He has been intent on westernizing Nigeria through aggressive reforms in education, economic development and diversity (job creation and a focus on building sectors outside of the oil industry) and women’s rights. Acknowledging the history of corruption in Nigeria, President Jonathan has instituted policies requiring government accountability and transparency. He was the first president in Nigeria’s history to sign a contract with his ministers, allowing for heightened monitoring and oversight, giving the public at long last a sense of trust in its government.

He has also focused much of his administrations attention – especially in education – in the predominantly Muslim north of the country. Under President Jonathan, more than 1,200 schools and universities have been built in the north (9 universities and 1,200 primary/secondary schools).

It seems that the Beltway analysis of Boko Haram’s rise has missed the obvious: it is no coincidence that this anti-western terrorist group has risen in direct parallel to Goodluck Jonathan’s push to westernize Nigeria.

You’d think that President Jonathan would have a friend in President Obama. In fact, you’d think that the Obama administration would be bending over backward to assist Nigeria in its fight with a common terrorist enemy. Yet petty politics and the usual US complaints about corruption have eroded this relationship to a dangerous level. Goodluck Jonathan may not be perfect, but he has done a tremendous job in taking the first, difficult steps in bringing Nigeria into the 21st century. His attempts to make Nigeria a thriving democracy with an opportunity economy should be welcomed and supported by the United States.

When it is in our national interest, the US weighs the facts and overlooks certain bad behavior by foreign governments. It seems that our President is willing to normalize relations with the brutally repressive Castro regime which poses no real threat to the US, but we are abandoning Nigeria when they need our support the most.

The United States should have an interest in Nigeria if only to help Africa's largest country – population 170 million – fight Boko Haram, a common enemy. But there is another geopolitical imperative at stake. China is desperate for a foothold in Africa and the Chinese are targeting Nigeria. They crave Nigeria's oil and natural resources. But the Chinese, unlike western investors, bring their own laborers with them, denying job opportunities to the African people, not to mention their devastating environmental policies that carry a global impact.

The Obama administration should be providing the kind of military training and support the Nigerians have begged for to defeat Boko Haram so that Nigeria can continue along the path to westernization as an ally.

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As #BokoHaram has been driven back, hundreds of imprisoned women & children have been rescued by #Nigeria's military cnn.it/1AbcXMR

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 4 Jun 2015

#BokoHaram is being backed into a corner as Nigeria's military destroys 10 more of the group's camps nyti.ms/1HcWm8q

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Peaceful transition of power from @PresGoodluck to @MBuhari is now complete with #BuhariInauguration



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Nigeria's new President was sworn in Friday in a boisterous ceremony that marked the first peaceful transfer of power between rival parties in the
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Congrats @MBuhari! We look forward to the new heights we will all reach together as one Nigeria. #BuhariInauguration

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@Forbes lays out how #Nigeria's growth will continue w/ peaceful transition to @MBuhari [onforb.es/1JNiQ2x](#)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 28 May 2015

As Boko Haram is driven back, stories of raped kidnapping victims a grim reminder of need to #StopBokoHaram [nyti.ms/1IHpvot](#)

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Via @Forbes: now is a historical time in #Nigeria w/new strength through national unity from a peaceful transition [onforb.es/1JNiQ2x](#)



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Boko Haram's use of rape as a weapon the latest reminder of need for int'l cooperation to #StopBokoHaram

The New York Times

Boko Haram Militants Raped Hundreds of Female Captives In Nigeria

Former captives of the group told of being raped, many repeatedly, in what officials described as a deliberate strategy to possibly create a new genera...

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Stability from peaceful transition of power from @ThisisBuhari & @Pragoodluck



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.@WashingtonPost #longread: nations can't defeat groups like #BokoHaram as a traditional counterinsurgency [wapo.st/1EVIXo5](#)

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Nigeria's army finding success against #BokoHaram: nearly 700 hostages rescued in recent days wapo.st/1Jwjcum



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International business successes boost #Nigeria: more oil reserves, better infrastructure, less power shortages. bloom.bg/1PQcS4O



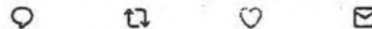
Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 14 May 2015

Senior US Diplomat: success of #Nigeria's peaceful election reminiscent of country's defeat of #Ebola" bit.ly/1F5Np5B



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@PresGoodluck pledges to turn over a "terrorist-free" #Nigeria to @ThisisBuhari bit.ly/1GUft4C



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Liberia ready to declare victory over #ebola: usat.ly/1KpMcUI. #Nigeria's path to victory



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 10 May 2015

We are moving towards defeating the #ebola outbreak. Reflect on #Nigeria's victory over the disease:

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Nigerian troops rescue 25 hostages from #BokoHaram as group's strength

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Scorched-earth tactics instead of governance may make #BokoHaram worse than the Taliban, argues @washingtonpost wapo.st/1D2Zb9z



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 1 May 2015

.@CNN reflects on lessons of #ebola outbreak cnn.it/1OdYh0p. We offer lessons of Nigerian response:



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We must keep pressure on #BokoHaram—rescue of nearly 300 women & girls a key step. Int'l support now key. cnn.it/1lkoTxe

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#Breaking: Nigeria's military has rescued 200 girls & 93 women from #BokoHaram: cnn.it/1lkoTxe

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#Nigeria's #ebola response took steps to incorporate expertise of int'l orgs and learn best practices

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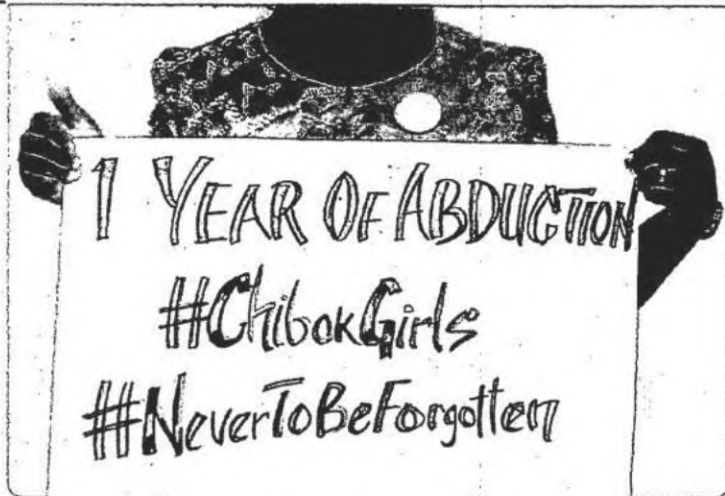
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.@UNICEF report finds 800K children forced from their homes by #BokoHaram: nbcnews.to/1JDisnM. Latest reminder of need to #stopBokoHaram



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 25 Apr 2015

Great steps have been taken by Nigerian govt to #StopBokoHaram. As we peacefully transition to @ThisIsBuhari this focus must remain.



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Nigeria's #ebola response combined technology, border control, information sharing & flexibility



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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 21 Apr 2015

#Chibok was not #BokoHaram's only kidnapping: nbcnews.to/1EydVmw. Intl community & US must join together to #stopBokoHaram

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To defeat #ebola, Nigeria took aggressive steps to monitor borders & track potential victims



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@B_Resnick shares a #Chibok survivor's story bit.ly/1JKTym1 - reminder we must work together to #StopBokoHaram & #BringBackOurGirls



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Continuing the peaceful transfer of power from @Presgoodluck to @ThisisBuhari keeps #Nigeria on a path of prosperity & growth

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Peaceful campaigns and transition of power in #Nigeria are a powerful example of democracy in action yhoo.it/1FlcCG5

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& Nigeria are changing that trend: on.wsj.com/1BSJnpu



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.@CSMonitor notes @Presgoodluck's peaceful concession "likely circumvented post-election violence" bit.ly/1CBcbpX #GEJOurHero



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 8 Apr 2015

.@Presgoodluck handover of power a key moment in democratic growth in #Nigeria: a possible shift towards a new, stronger multi-party system



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Peaceful changeover in power from @Presgoodluck could boost investment in #Nigeria, @WSJ notes on.wsj.com/1BSJnpu



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 7 Apr 2015

.@WashingtonPost calls #NigeriaDecides2015 "most transparent vote to date" - thanks in part to @Presgoodluck reforms wapo.st/1DADgvA



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 7 Apr 2015

Key first step in continuing to move #Nigeria forward? Continuing the peaceful transition @Presgoodluck began bit.ly/1CBcbpX



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 6 Apr 2015

#NigeriaDecides shows democratic government is still vibrant worldwide - @Slate slate.me/1yBdMit



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 6 Apr 2015

.@VP hails @Presgoodluck's peaceful handover of power in #Nigeria as an act of "principled patriotism" 1.usa.gov/1yHHawl



**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 5 Apr 2015

The peaceful transition in leadership from @Presgoodluck in #Nigeria sets an example for all #Africa



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In @Slate @joshuakeating celebrates #NigeriaDecides as sign of democratic strength across the globe slate.me/1yBdMlt

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Statement from @WhiteHouse applauds @Presgoodluck & @ThisIsBuhari for commitments to peaceful campaigns 1.usa.gov/1CxAOUD

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#Nigeria a "trailblazer" for African democracy for peaceful transition of power by @Presgoodluck yho0.it/1FlcG5

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@RepChrisSmith joins chorus of US policymakers thanking @Presgoodluck for beginning peaceful transition of power 1.usa.gov/19LXSU7

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Rachael Akidi

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"The outcome of the elections demonstrates the maturity of democracy not only in #Nigeria but on the Continent as a whole." - AU Chair.

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BBC News Africa

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President Goodluck Jonathan's decision to concede to Muhammadu Buhari has prompted the hashtag #GEJOurHero, which is now trending in Nigeria

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**Stephanie Hegarty** @stephhegarty · 30 Mar 2015

Replying to @stephhegarty

The summary so far - 9 states (incl. FCT) results in. PDP in lead on votes 20,000 up. APC on states 5-4 #nigeriadesides 25% there.

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.@TheGuardianNGR surveys #Nigeria's successes in diversifying its economy: bit.ly/1x4o48u

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After another town was retaken from #BokoHaram control group has been attacked from air by regional forces nyti.ms/19fHQCC

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#Nigeria secures \$1bn for new wholesale bank to support continued job creation & poverty reduction bit.ly/1H62S5B @ChannelsTV_NG

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@NYTimes lays out lessons of #ebola epidemic nyti.ms/1BnS6jl. We offer #Nigeria's successful model:



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@Presgoodluck took office: yhoo.it/1xf1XN9



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Tomi Oladipo @Tomi_Oladipo · 29 Mar 2015

Tech hitches aside, it's been fairly decent process so far, compared to previous elections. Voters appear more patient too #NigeriaDecides



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 28 Mar 2015
In @monkeycageblog @Juliet_p83 discusses #Nigeria's use of biometrics to keep elections fair: wapo.st/1wVXH5w



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#NigeriaDecides2015: find your polling place here bit.ly/19LcF3p



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Partner organizations were tasked w/specific roles to reduce bottlenecks and maximize efficiency in fighting #ebola



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Thanks to @Presgoodluck leadership, Nigerian forces have driven #BokoHaram out of almost 17 municipalities: nyti.ms/19LOVfp



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... @Presgoodluck discuss successes, failures of #ebola response in
@NYTimes nyti.ms/18nS6jl. Remember #Nigeria's success!

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.@Presgoodluck outlines his 3-prong approach to defeating #ebola in #Nigeria
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Regional forces continuing to take the fight to #BokoHaram, now from the air
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Nkem Ifejika @nkemifejika · 26 Mar 2015
Ballots, results sheets heading to Lagos LGAs. Printed abroad, handed to CBN
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#Nigeria is taking bold steps to include biometrics to combat corruption in administering its election wapo.st/1wVXHsw

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 25 Mar 2015
#BradfordAssociates report: @Presgoodluck energy & infrastructure reforms clearing path for long term growth: reut.rs/1FAZxK1

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 25 Mar 2015
Remember: #NigeriaDecides on 28 March! Find where to go vote: bit.ly/19LcF3p

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Nigerian forces have driven #BokoHaram out of almost 17 municipalities across #Nigeria since January: nyti.ms/19LOVfp

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@Presgoodluck is aiming to retake all #BokoHaram's territory within a month: thebea.st/1BbGSOC

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String of successes against #BokoHaram has morale sky high among regional force: nyti.ms/1BJf2JG

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In new video @WhiteHouse calls for free, fair & peaceful elections in #NigeriaDecides 1.usa.gov/1HwexqZ

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Conflict w/ #BokoHaram has killed over 13k people, displaced over 1.5 million since conflict began. The world must #StopBokoHaram

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 23 Mar 2015
#Nigeria is an "all-star" of the global economy, @Bloomberg survey finds bloom.bg/1AKtV13

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Thanks to @Presgoodluck's leadership #PriceWaterhouseCooper ranks #Nigeria air infrastructure 2nd in sub-saharan Africa

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@Presgoodluck's model for defeating #ebola: use #mobile tech to facilitate cooperation, control borders, be flexible



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@DefenseOne: #BokoHaram #ISIS pledge may spur recruitment: bit.ly/1BLuObC. Renews need for intl action.



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Defeating #ebola requires an informed public. #Nigeria used #mobile tools to win public support in monitoring disease



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#Nigeria beginning to expand #LNG exports to neighbors, including Cote d'Ivoire bit.ly/1Akev00

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1 sign of a growing economy? Friends paying friends. #Nigeria is no.2 in African using @PayPal after just 1 year bit.ly/1wugDHA

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.@Presgoodluck's expansions to #Nigeria infrastructure could add 4% to country's GDP reut.rs/1FAZxK1

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.@Presgoodluck is taking steps to boost #Nigeria's economy with better #electricity generation. His plan: yhoo.it/1xf1XN9

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.@Presgoodluck welcomed partner orgs like @WHO to fight #ebola in #Nigeria.



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In @DefenseOne @HilaryMattfess notes #BokoHaram #ISIS affiliation can be understood as need for cash: bit.ly/1BLuObC

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Flexibility is critical in managing #ebola. Have to go where the disease is to defeat it



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.@Presgoodluck has launched a massive infrastructure improvement plan for #Nigeria. Details: yhoo.it/1xf1XN9



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.@Bloomberg names #Nigeria to list of emerging economies "dominating" economic growth in 2015 bloom.bg/1AKtV13





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Falling #oil prices have some benefits: they're spurring foreign investment in #Nigeria bit.ly/1Ca9UVL

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#ebola scare in #SierraLeone reminder how dangerous disease is & importance of strategy. @Presgoodluck's model:



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#ISIS has accepted #BokoHaram's offer of allegiance nbcnews.to/1GxwDZn. Alliance underscores why we must #StopBokoHaram

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#Bordercontrol key to defeating #ebola & stopping spread of disease in #Nigeria





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@UN must endorse @AfricanUnion forces against #BokoHaram: key financial support at stake: nyti.ms/1F4uIT1

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@Presgoodluck increase to @NigerianNavy ship funding will boost #Nigeria economy by fighting oil theft bit.ly/1xaCUFm

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Nigeria's military is expanding its logistical capabilities, further advancing fight against #BokoHaram bit.ly/19eOha2

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BBC News Africa @BBCAfrica · 16 Mar 2015
The smart 'band-aid' that could help the world beat Ebola @wtaylor1
bbc.in/1DqqyJN

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#Barkhane Bolstering: #France 'do not intend to take part in the fighting'. Troops to support forces fighting #BokoHaram around Lake Chad.

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@Presgoodluck lays out for @USAtoday how #Nigeria defeated #ebola

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France increasing support of efforts to #stopBokoHaram, providing additional intelligence & reconnaissance: nyti.ms/1F4ulT1

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A strong fleet is crucial to combat #oil theft – so @Presgoodluck has recapitalized @NigerianNavy to maximize funds bit.ly/1xaCUFm

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@Stratfor tells @DefenseOne #BokoHaram allegiance pledge is attempt to boost morale & win support bit.ly/18eQh32

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How did #Nigeria beat #ebola? Empowering public with access to information made it easier to track, contain disease



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As #BokoHaram pledges allegiance to #ISIS, world must work together to #StopBokoHaram

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Follow us to join the conversation on moving #Nigeria towards a brighter tomorrow through peace, economic growth, education and reform!

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When faced with a serious regional military force #BokoHaram pledge allegiance to #ISIS.
If true, less strategy, more desperation.

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#France increasing its West African #Barkhane counter-insurgency force to support regional forces fighting #BokoHaram. via @reuters

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Educating #Nigeria public was critical to defeat #ebola. Information empowered public to play key role in monitoring efforts

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 11 Mar 2015
#BokoHaram killing dozens & burning homes in #Chad. Western support will be key to #stopBokoHaram wapo.st/1NqqJhZ

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 11 Mar 2015
Black Press Foundation @WashTimes endorsement of @PresGoodluck: ensuring justice & equity through tackling issues worthy of commendation

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 10 Mar 2015
Symbol of strength of Nigeria's economy: #Nigeria will print currency for Ghana & Ivory Coast bit.ly/1x0KFgX

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Black Press Foundation endorses @PresGoodluck in @WashTimes for "ingenious route to fighting corruption" bit.ly/1Gr5XN9

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Us too! MT @nadia3690 Honoured to be quoted in @AMSUL_UNILAG #8BCEbola storify @uwa101 @davidblawal @UNMEER sfy.co/iOM3

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@AtlanticCouncil's Peter Pham tells @AP @maffaul #BokoHaram alliance w/#ISIS could backfire: sap resources & support-bit.ly/1Gy0lvh

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#BokoHaram pledges allegiance to #ISIS, reaffirming why int'l community must work together to #stopBokoHaram wapo.st/1AW8KWz

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Major foreign investment from @cantorfitzgerld latest sign of strong #Nigeria economy, bc of @Presgoodluck leadership bit.ly/1wI7I5v

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#BokoHaram, like #ISIS, captures their brutality on camera. We must all work together to #stopBokoHaram wapo.st/1wVVtwT

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 8 Mar 2015

3:59pm: Grim #BokoHaram violence in #Chad renews call for int'l efforts to #stopBokoHaram wapo.st/1NqqJhZ



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One key in @Presgoodluck's organized victory over #ebola was a #mobile-friendly site to keep public informed, dispel rumors

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#BokoHaram imitated #ISIS' horrific use of children as suicide bombers before copying video style. #BokoHaram must be stopped w/intl suppt

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Mar 2015
Eerie echoes of #ISIS influence in new #BokoHaram video a grim reminder of int'l mission to #stopBokoHaram's urgency wapo.st/1wVVtwT

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Mar 2015
.@Presgoodluck's expansion of affordable #housing in #Nigeria is taking off! @cantorfitzgerld investing in 10k homes bit.ly/1wI7I5v

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Mar 2015
.@PresGoodluck has kept #Nigeria economy so steady Ghana & Ivory Coast will use Nigerian mint to produce currency bit.ly/1x0KFgX

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Mar 2015
.@Presgoodluck outlined his strategy to defeat #ebola in @USAToday so more countries can be #ebolafree

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#StopBokoHaram: their strategy centers around seizing towns, which has driven more than 1 million Nigerians from their homes.



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BBC News Africa @BBCAfrica · 5 Mar 2015

Liberia's last #Ebola patient speaks to the BBC after ending treatment. The country has seen no new cases in a week

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Public education also important in #Nigeria #ebola victory – giving those who came into contact w/infectious information to assist monitoring

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Another key to Nigeria's #ebola victory? #mobile-friendly website to keep citizens informed and dispel rumors about #ebola



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Rita Katz @Rita_Katz · 3 Mar 2015

2/ Without seeing title or intro, #BokoHaram beheading vid, would seem like an #ISIS vid with more vegetation; tinyurl.com/qgfy7j2



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Sara Firth @Sara_Firth · 2 Mar 2015

Whether it's copycatting or more direct assistance being provided, latest #BokoHaram video of the beheadings has clear #ISIS similarities.



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#mobile tech was key in Nigeria's victory over #ebola, as it facilitated rapid information sharing & kept everyone on same page

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In an op-ed for @USAToday @Presgoodluck discussed Nigeria's highly successful #ebola response usat.ly/15kLAKq #BBCEbola



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70% of Nigerians lack formal bank accounts. So @Presgoodluck & @MasterCard teamed up to distribute biometric IDs w/payment capabilities

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@StandwNigeria · 3 Mar 2015

One key to Nigeria's success? A #mobile-friendly website to keep citizens informed and dispel rumors about #ebola #BBCEbola

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How did #Nigeria defeat #ebola? Border control, coordination across govt & tech use: usat.ly/15kLAKq #BBCEbola

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Today @BBC & @BBCAfrica are hosting online #ebola conference-lets discuss lessons of Nigeria's victory usat.ly/15kLakq #BBCEbola



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In @USAToday @ilanberman suggests those watching #ISIS pay attention to African Islamist orgs, esp #BokoHaram usat.ly/1DWczkj



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 2 Mar 2015

Africa—and Nigeria—could be the next flashpoint in war on terror usat.ly/1DWczkj. Reminder of need for int'l effort to #StopBokoHaram



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 2 Mar 2015

.@NYTimes: Regional force fighting Boko Haram plans to "pin down" group ahead of March land/air offensive nyti.ms/1LNsAeM



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 2 Mar 2015

.@Newsweek profiles US training of Nigerian, regional troops ahead of offensive against #BokoHaram bit.ly/1As7KxP



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New found online sophistication of #BokoHaram raises questions of group's ties to #ISIS nyti.ms/1zuEVNh

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 1 Mar 2015
#Nigeria is using #biometric ID cards to crack down on scammers and fraud across the country bbc.in/1BiauyK

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 1 Mar 2015
Though @PresGoodluck has called on US for combat troops to help #stopBokoHaram, US & France are now providing behind-the-scenes support

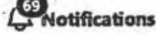
Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 1 Mar 2015
@CNN reports on #Nigerian special forces, whose training is modeled after @USNavy Seals cnn.it/1DXkw8D

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 28 Feb 2015
New #biometric ID cards are cutting down on fraud & expanding access to financial services in #Nigeria bbc.in/1BiauyK

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 28 Feb 2015
#Nigeria commits 3,500 troops to regional force to #stopBokoHaram bbc.in/1LKQndJ

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If #BokoHaram and #ISIS are tied together, int'l action to #stopBokoHaram, like Nigerian-led coalition, only grows more important

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Air strikes to play "key role" for regional force offensive against #BokoHaram before ground troops mop up survivors nyti.ms/1LNsAeM



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.@nancyayoussef: #BokoHaram losses portend shift to more violent tactics. Hence need for intl effort to defeat org thebea.st/17BIJFi



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 27 Feb 2015

First commander of regional force taking on #BokoHaram will be Nigerian, per @BBCAfrica bbc.in/1LKQndJ



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Sara Firth @Sara_Firth · 25 Feb 2015

A #Nigerian soldier aims his weapon during #Flintlock2015, a U.S.-led military exercise. Feb 22 REUTERS/Emmanuel Braun



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**BBC News Africa** @BBCAfrica · 25 Feb 2015
#BokoHaram crisis: 8,750-strong regional force takes shape to tackle the militant group bbc.in/18kTxZh



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@CSMonitor surveys regional economic fallout from #BokoHaram, underscores need for int'l action: bit.ly/1zd9PsB

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 24 Feb 2015
#BokoHaram's drain of the economies of Chad, Cameroon & Niger a reminder of importance of effort to #StopBokoHaram bit.ly/1zd9PsB

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Photos of some of the vehicles and arms seized by #Nigerian military in the ongoing operation against #BokoHaram.







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will ross @willintune · 21 Feb 2015

Nigeria's army says many Boko Haram drowned in Lake Chad after fleeing from Baga which has been recaptured.

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BBC News Africa @BBCAfrica · 22 Feb 2015

Army retakes town from Boko Haram bbc.in/1GgKhAC

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Want to beat corruption in #Africa? Try #Nigerian model. Use #mobile to cut out middlemen, save \$2 billion: bit.ly/1znx5am



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 22 Feb 2015

Via @business: new trading system from #Nigeria central bank helps stabilize #naira by curbing speculation bloom.bg/17Ukt1Z



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 22 Feb 2015

.@Wired's take from frontlines of fighting #ebola in #Liberia a reminder of importance of community engagement: wrd.cm/1ziwCU



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#ebola claimed over 8000 lives, but only a few were from #Nigeria, largely bc of @PresGoodluck's leadership... (1/2)

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@myHnn puts #BokoHaram into historical context, resulting from #colonial neglect and heir to dissident tradition bit.ly/19xXv0S

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 21 Feb 2015
250+ US troops helping African forces defeat #BokoHaram w/better intelligence sharing, airborne ops & more: nyti.ms/1CJ8Nqk

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 20 Feb 2015
New #cloud tech enables African allies fighting #BokoHaram to share #intelligence at lightning speed nyti.ms/1vGAxct

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 20 Feb 2015
1300 troops, 28 countries participating in counter-terror exercise ahead of offensive against #BokoHaram nyti.ms/1DCXbc8

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 20 Feb 2015
#NigeriaMatters because @Presgoodluck has taken aggressive steps to hold his team to higher standards than any previous administration.



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Nigerian troops have recaptured 2 towns from #BokoHaram as they continue offensive nyti.ms/1DCXbc8

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 19 Feb 2015

#Mobile fights corruption in #Nigeria agriculture, saves almost \$2 billion. bit.ly/1znx5am

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 19 Feb 2015

#ebola's slow fade underscores difficulty of beating virus & need for aggressive strategy, as in #Nigeria

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**Paul Wallace** @PaulWallace123 · 18 Feb 2015

#Nigeria's #naira has risen 4% since Friday, when the cen bank intro'd a new trading system. bloomberg.com/news/articles/...



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@Presgoodluck has kept Nigerian economy afloat despite challenges from global #oil markets—Nigeria's @standardpoors rating holding level



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Nigeria's military says more than 300 Boko Haram militants were killed when the army retook the north-eastern town of Monguno.



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 18 Feb 2015

@NYTimes has ideas for @WHO reform after #ebola: nyti.ms/1yyt5JT. Our suggestion? Consider Nigerian response.



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 17 Feb 2015

Use of #mobile e-wallet systems in #Nigerian agricultural sector saved almost \$2 billion from corrupt officials bit.ly/1znx5am



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 17 Feb 2015

No election should end in violence. Join us in saying #iObject to violence in #Nigeriadeclides2015



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How #Nigeria defeated #ebola: public-private coordination, effective border control & widespread use of #mobile tech



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Peaceful elections & transfers of power maintain democracy. That's why #iObject to electoral violence in #Nigeria2015

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@Presgoodluck stamped out #corruption in Nigerian agriculture by using #mobile tech to cut out often corrupt middlemen

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#BokoHaram violence is spreading to Chad, Cameroon, Niger--this is a regional problem, requires regional cooperation for victory

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Under @PresGoodluck, poverty in #Nigeria has declined to just over 33%, a significant decrease from the past: [bit.ly/1ELVafa](#)

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#GEJ has taken "unprecedented step" of auditing Nigeria's civil service, weeding out 50,000 "ghost workers" bit.ly/1znx5am

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 14 Feb 2015

@pittsburghpg is right: defeating #BokoHaram should be a Western priority. Int'l action needed to #stopBokoHaram bit.ly/1Axezi3

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 14 Feb 2015

@standardpoors rating of Nigeria's economy holds steady in the face of headwinds from collapsing global #oil prices bit.ly/1F74o6v

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 14 Feb 2015

Spread of #BokoHaram violence into Chad a grim reminder of why the problem demands a regional solution nyti.ms/1vrBuoU

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 14 Feb 2015

Spread & scope of #ebola across Western Africa in #charts (ht @TheEconomist) econ.st/1xtzgoZ

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 13 Feb 2015

As we discuss key issues in election, let's also not forget Nigeria's victories over #ebola & #polio #AINigeriaDecides @AJStream





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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 12 Feb 2015

In contrast #Nigeria's successful model focused on border controls, maximizing #tech & coordination to inform & educate public (2/2)



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 12 Feb 2015

.@WHO cites community resistance to aid workers as one culprit in rise of #ebola cases dailym.ai/1yIEvT2. (1/2)



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BBC North America @BBCNorthAmerica · 12 Feb 2015

#Obama says all but 100 US troops in Liberia to fight #Ebola will pull out by end of April bbc.in/1B2wkqK





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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 11 Feb 2015Latest #BokoHaram kidnapping in Cameroon grim reminder of urgent need for regional force to defeat group [fxn.ws/1ATwQHm](https://www.facebook.com/1ATwQHm)**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 11 Feb 2015As @Presgoodluck pledges no future election date shifts, regional forces deploy nearly 9k troops against #BokoHaram [lat.ms/1zGX9i8](https://www.facebook.com/1zGX9i8)**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 11 Feb 2015

Almajiri schools blend modern curricula w/traditional religious schooling & vocational training, fighting fanaticism through education (2/2)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 11 Feb 2015As regional coalition pushes back #BokoHaram, almajiri schools offer long-term way to fight religious extremism [econ.st/1tiwTZ1](https://www.facebook.com/econ.st/1tiwTZ1) (1/2)**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 10 Feb 2015

School enrollment has grown steadily in targeted areas: 33% in North Central Zone, 22% in North East Zone and 4.5% in North West Zone (3/3)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 10 Feb 2015

In 3 northern zones of #Nigeria, @Presgoodluck has built 1200 primary & secondary schools, 9 new universities (2/3)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 10 Feb 2015

Schools are critical for economic growth, so @Presgoodluck has invested in schools & universities, esp in impoverished North (1/3)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 9 Feb 2015Troops in Niger have repelled #BokoHaram attack on border town, reports @PittsburghPG - [bit.ly/16FY1bc](https://www.facebook.com/bit.ly/16FY1bc)

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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 8 Feb 2015
.@WorldBank: Nigerian economy now "more diversified and dynamic" w/boosts from manufacturing, service industries bit.ly/1ELVafA

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 8 Feb 2015
Nigerian forces seize key weapons, vehicles & ammunition from #BokoHaram : bit.ly/1yQA9tl

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 8 Feb 2015
.@WHO - #Nigeria's defeat of #ebola a "spectacular success story" reut.rs/1zhLurs

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 8 Feb 2015
.@BrookingsInst #NigeriaDecides2015 report surveys #Nigeria, sees economic growth & victory over #ebola as big wins brook.gs/1zUWFB4

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 8 Feb 2015
Nigeria was proud to play leading role @_AfricanUnion meetings to build force to #StopBokoHaram bit.ly/1AApWqt

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Feb 2015
Nigeria is working with regional partners Cameroon, Chad, @_AfricanUnion to #StopBokoHaram

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Feb 2015
Nigeria is leading the fight against #BokoHaram, but will soon be backed by a regional, @_AfricanUnion force bit.ly/1AApWqt

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Feb 2015
.@presgoodluck's investments in education have resulted in over 10 million more primary school students, 50% increase in college enrollment

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 7 Feb 2015
As #ebola cases rise again in Africa dailym.ai/1yIEvT2, remember lessons from #Nigeria's victory

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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 6 Feb 2015

#Follow us & learn more about how Nigeria is moving forward through peace, economic growth, education and reform!



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 6 Feb 2015

#Nigeria's regional coalition to #stopBokoHaram is earning support from #France abcn.ws/16GI7yl



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 5 Feb 2015

Free & fair elections without violence are the lifeblood of democracy. #VoteNotFight @AJStream



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 5 Feb 2015

#VoteNotFight is crucial to sustain democracy — that's why @PresGoodluck was so proud to sign Abuja Accord @AJStream



Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 5 Feb 2015

Yesterday regional forces took fight to #BokoHaram on 2 fronts & drove group from key village bit.ly/1yMWCax



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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 4 Feb 2015

Exciting to see @UN encouraging regional cooperation as #Nigeria & others look to #stopBokoHaram bit.ly/1z9NH1S

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 4 Feb 2015

#Nigeria, Chad & Cameroon forces are bombing #BokoHaram, seizing weapons & material wapo.st/1uXGMIw

2 30 3

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 4 Feb 2015

Newly launched int'l efforts to #stopBokoHaram are seeing success in the early going: wapo.st/1uXGMIw

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 4 Feb 2015

@Presgoodluck looks to strengthen #Nigeria's #anticorruption agency as it takes aggressive measures moving forward bit.ly/1DFw8eF

2 30 3

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 4 Feb 2015

Another reminder why #iObject to election violence MT @DailyPostNgr: Nigeria cannot afford to fail in 2015 elections dailypost.ng/?p=218502

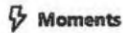
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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 3 Feb 2015

These strategies combined to prevent community outbreaks & reduce stigma against victims of #ebola (6/6)

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 3 Feb 2015

Door-to-door communication ensured households knew what to do if symptoms arose & fought the disease's stigma (2/6)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 3 Feb 2015

One cornerstone of #Nigeria's heralded #ebola response? Education. (1/6)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 2 Feb 2015

.@AfricanUnion is establishing an international force of 7500 troops to fight #BokoHaram: nyti.ms/18Cpyfe

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 2 Feb 2015

.@presgoodluck made #Nigeria's electoral watchdog independent, a critical step to maintaining free & fair elections

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 2 Feb 2015Nigeria's military defeats latest assault by #BokoHaram on city of #Maiduguri, per @BBCAfrica
bbc.in/1KhxzST**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 2 Feb 2015.@WorldBank sees 5% growth in 2015 & '16 for African economy at #Davos.
@PresGoodluck's continued leadership ensures #Nigeria shares growth**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 2 Feb 2015

#NigeriaMatters b/c it's ending corrupt practices-up 8 slots in @anticorruption's 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index bit.ly/1znx5am

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 1 Feb 2015

Cutting out middlemen & using #mobile tech has empowered #Nigeria's farmers, at corruption's expense bit.ly/1znx5am

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 1 Feb 2015

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UN: Nigeria is the 6th largest contributor of military and police resources to @UN peacekeeping efforts bit.ly/1DdiSh1

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 31 Jan 2015

Learn more about #Nigeria's approach from @Presgoodluck & @USAtoday: bitly.com/1BPZ5a4 (2/2)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 31 Jan 2015

Aggressive, coordinated & comprehensive approach meant #Nigeria experienced only 8 deaths out of 19 confirmed #Ebola cases (1/2).

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 31 Jan 2015

@TheDailyShow asks why US isn't more involved working to #StopBokoHaram - we'd like to know too on.cc.com/15P8L7G

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 30 Jan 2015

US offering "technical support, training and equipment" to help defeat #BokoHaram nyti.ms/1DnLm7S



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**BBC Outside Source** @BBCOS · 26 Jan 2015

#BokoHaram attack on Nigeria's #Maiduguri city repelled. @willintune and @Diplo1 explain: bbc.in/1CXnkjD



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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 29 Jan 2015

.@Voxdotcom news of less an 100 new #ebola cases (bit.ly/1A3OSX7) reminds us this disease can be beaten back usat.ly/15kLAKq

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 29 Jan 2015

Announced presidential debates remind us #NigeriaDecides2015 is around the corner. Join us in saying #iObject to election violence

  1  

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 29 Jan 2015

Because it's the largest—and among the most stable—economies in Africa, #Nigeriamatters

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 29 Jan 2015

Looking for more on how #Nigeria is moving towards a brighter tomorrow through peace, economic growth, education and reform? Follow us!

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 28 Jan 2015

.@HouseForeign yesterday heard testimony on #Nigeria w/focus on #BokoHaram, #NigeriaDecides2015. More at 1.usa.gov/1BixnJA

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**Stand With Nigeria** Retweeted

**Seanwillex** @9jaInformant · 28 Jan 2015

CNN declares Nigeria the 3rd FASTEST growing economy in the world, thanks to President Jonathan's leadership. #WeTriumphStill #I_ChooseGEJ

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 28 Jan 2015

Victory against #Ebola is in sight in #SierraLeone bit.ly/1Cg5NXf —as in #Nigeria, coordinated responses at all levels will be key

**Stand With Nigeria** Retweeted

**World Health Organization (WHO)** @WHO · 28 Jan 2015

.@joycelyntann Early treatment is best, it gives you chance to live #AskRebecca



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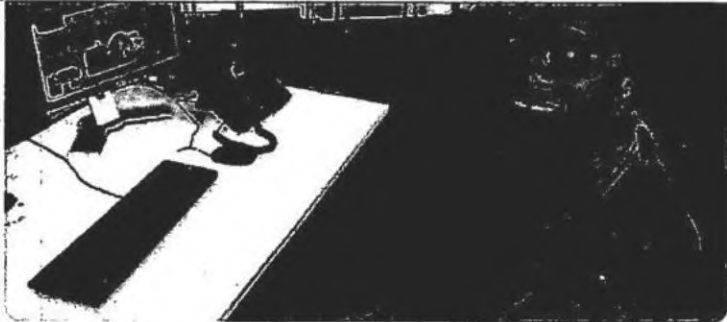
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Daily Post Nigeria @DailyPostNGR · 27 Jan 2015

NGO advocates peaceful and fair elections - dailypost.ng/?p=215731&wt=2

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Eric Acha @EricAcha1 · 27 Jan 2015

@NDI's @ChrisFomunyoh Nigeria candidates hve all committed themselves to ensure there's no election related violence



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Jonathan Richardson
Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria

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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 26 Jan 2015
Because the greatest danger to democracy in Nigeria is our election being stopped, #IObject to election violence from #BokoHaram

1 1

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 26 Jan 2015
@PresGoodluck told @JohnKerry he looks forward to working w/US to beat "global terrorism & particularly #BokoHaram" yhao.it/1ym58hv

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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 26 Jan 2015
@JohnKerry met with @presgoodluck yesterday to discuss importance of peaceful elections #NigeriaDecides2015





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effective governance for all Africa ti.me/1rV4FgN

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 25 Jan 2015

#BokoHaram violence MUST cease. Where is international community? Where is #USinNigeria?

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 25 Jan 2015

#NigeriaMatters because its leaders are holding themselves accountable through contracts that heighten monitoring and oversight

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 25 Jan 2015

#NigeriaMatters because its education innovations could cut off oxygen to fundamentalist groups preying on children econ.st/1tiwTZ1

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 25 Jan 2015

ICYMI: Good to see @AfricanUnion discussing international solution to #fightextremism and #stopBokoHaram bbc.in/1xxvVvU

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 24 Jan 2015

As #2015election nears, stand with us and say #IObject to violence. No one should be kept from voting

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 24 Jan 2015

Because of President Jonathan's reforms, Nigeria's deficit to GDP ratio down by nearly 2/3rds #BringbackJonathan2015

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 24 Jan 2015

@NickKristof reminds us of importance of moderate leadership, religious acceptance in Muslim and other countries nyti.ms/1C4Q8bU

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 24 Jan 2015

Leadership key in Nigeria's remarkable rice turnaround—from world's 2nd largest importer to net exporter in 4 years bit.ly/1CM9iRW



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Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 23 Jan 2015
Perhaps most important, says @presgoodluck in @USATODAY was that population was "educated...about the risks and effects of ebola" #Nigeria

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 23 Jan 2015
President Jonathan in @USATODAY - "a coordinated plan is important, but flexibility is crucial" in defeating #Ebola

Stand With Nigeria Retweeted
LBS Mobile Services @MobileLocation · 23 Jan 2015
Nigeria president: How we beat Ebola - USA TODAY: USA TODAYNigeria president: How we beat EbolaUSA TODAYAny fu... bit.ly/1CtjPnb

Stand With Nigeria Retweeted
CNN Business @CNNBusiness · 23 Jan 2015
By our estimates, the fastest-growing economies in 2015 will be:
✓ China
✓ Qatar
✓ Nigeria
cnnmon.ie/15w6RrU

Country	Percent Growth
China	7.3%
Qatar	7.1%
Nigeria	7.0%
Iraq	6.7%
Bangladesh	6.5%

Percent growth of countries with GDP over \$100 billion

231 2.8K 841

Stand With Nigeria @StandwNigeria · 23 Jan 2015
Worth remembering that Nigeria's economy has grown leaps & bounds – in 2014 Nigeria passed S. Africa as largest economy in #Africa

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**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 22 Jan 2015

Aggressive approach meant Nigeria saw only 8 deaths in 19 confirmed #ebola cases. Compare w/8000 deaths elsewhere in Africa. (4/4)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 22 Jan 2015

Teams tracking #ebola contacts were equipped w/smartphones. Data was reviewed & responded to in near-real time bit.ly/12x1cAx (3/4)



1

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 22 Jan 2015

For example, approximately 90% of ID'd contacts of #ebola victims were monitored daily for symptoms (2/4)



1

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 22 Jan 2015

What were keys to stopping #ebola in Nigeria? Per @guardian it was strong public sector-hospitals, universities bit.ly/1vG8ywl (1/4)

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 22 Jan 2015

ICYMI-despite economic headwinds from global collapse of #oil prices, Nigerian economy still strong: bloom.bg/1AYXcUy #forwardNigeria

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 21 Jan 2015

Jonathan-"We know that the issue of terror is global, but the excess of Boko Haram is quite traumatic for all of us" #StandwithNigeria

**Stand With Nigeria** @StandwNigeria · 21 Jan 2015


President Jonathan visited heart of #BokoHaram territory in Northeast Nigeria, spoke to troops & reassured refugees



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FACT SHEET: President Jonathan's New Era of Transparency and Accountability

Accountability and Transparency Reforms

- President Jonathan is the first president in Nigeria's history to institute a Performance Management Contract with his ministers, allowing for ***heightened monitoring and oversight*** - giving the public a sense of trust in governmental and economic bodies.
 - Ministers present the scorecards from their evaluations to the public for review.
- President Jonathan delivered a comprehensive "Midterm Report" on the status of his campaign promises, including his track record on the economy, so that the ***public could gauge his performance and hold him accountable***. Despite weak forecasts for Nigeria's economy early in President Jonathan's term, his Administration delivered GDP growth of over 7% in the months leading up to the report.
- Nigeria's rating rose 8 spots in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2014.¹ The index's rankings are determined by prominent international organizations such as the World Bank and Freedom House, which submit an annual survey indicating their perceptions of each individual country's level of corruption.
- **Freedom of Information Act:** Signed by President Jonathan in 2011 to increase transparency in governance and grant the public unfettered access to information about government activities. The law gives "citizens access to public records and government agencies seven days to produce the information requested. The law also makes it a crime to destroy public records."²
- **Stamped out corruption in agriculture sector.** President Jonathan instituted a program that registered 14 million farmers with the Ministry of Agriculture to root out theft and fraud by connecting the farmer directly with the product through an e-wallet system. Prior to this program, the Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution department of the agricultural sector used to be a major source of corruption with billions of dollars in losses because middlemen inflated costs and supplied subpar products to Nigeria's farmers. Nigeria has saved close to \$2 billion that would have gone into the pockets of corrupt officials and middlemen.³

Fair and Free Elections

- Upon taking office, President Jonathan **reconstituted the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** and appointed as its chair, a highly respected university professor and human rights activist, Professor Attahiru Jega.⁴ Prior to

¹ <http://sunnewsonline.com/new/?p=93831>

² <https://freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-information-bill-signed-law#.VLQ6eGTF-Ac>

³ <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2014/12/corruption-index-nigerias-improvement-confirms-jonathans-anti-corruption-fight/>

⁴ <http://goodluck.org.ng/index.php/electoral-reforms>

the Jonathan Administration, fraud, bribery and corruption were commonplace in Nigeria's electoral system.

- President Jonathan has made the INEC an independent body and allowed it to conduct its duties without interference.
 - Transparency International, a non-governmental anti-corruption organization, has praised the Jonathan Administration for weeding out electoral corruption and for running successful state and national elections since 2011.⁵

⁵ <http://sunnewsonline.com/new/?p=93831>

Fact Sheet: Nigeria's Economic Success

Top Level Points

- Under President Jonathan, Nigeria surpassed South Africa as **the continent's largest economy** (announced April 2014). Nigeria's GDP totaled \$510B in 2013 - compared to South Africa's \$370B. [See *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21600685-nigerias-suddenly-supersized-economy-indeed-wonder-so-are-its-still-huge>].
- President Jonathan has **diversified Nigeria's economy** to support other sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and telecommunications as part of a strategy to move away from sole dependence on the oil industry.
- Under President Jonathan, Nigeria **emerged from the recession faster and stronger** than its neighbors. The global economic crisis was peaking when President Jonathan came to office. His steps shored up the nation's banking sector and **stimulated job growth** to put the country on better economic footing faster.
- President Jonathan has made **job creation a priority**. In May 2014, Nigeria hosted the World Economic Forum on Africa, which brought nearly 1,000 regional and global leaders to the nation to discuss job creation and innovative strategies to reduce poverty.

Key Reforms

- President Jonathan has implemented reforms that have dropped Nigeria's deficit to GDP ratio by nearly two-thirds. In 2009, the country's deficit stood at 3.3% of Nigeria's GDP; by 2012, it was down to just over 1%.
- Additional reforms include:
 - Streamlining the tax collection process and diversifying revenue sources.
 - Creation of a Sovereign Wealth Fund to help Nigeria weather economic downturns.
 - Increasing the financial stability and capitalization of Nigerian banks – hit hard by the global financial crisis – and increasing access to banking and other financial services for more Nigerians. In fact, **8 of the 9 distressed banks were saved** by the Jonathan Administration's moves.
 - From December 2010 to March 2014, the average capital adequacy ratio, a key indicator of the stability of banks, rose from 4.03% to 16.7% - higher than the global threshold of 10%.

- President Jonathan has met the challenge faced by the country's energy needs at a time of high population growth by **increasing the competitiveness of the marketplace**. [The Guardian <http://allafrica.com/stories/201412160624.html>].

Economic Diversification and Stability

- Oil revenue is the biggest contributor to Nigeria's economy. Given oil's volatility, President Jonathan quickly recognized the need to **diversify the economy to better withstand shifts in oil prices**.
 - In two years, President Jonathan increased government revenues from non-oil sources by **50 percent**. In 2011, only 20% of government revenues came from non-oil sources; by 2013, that figure had risen to 30%.
 - The non-oil sector has grown by an average of 8% in recent years under the Jonathan Administration's leadership.
 - Jonathan is implementing the Government and Donor Fund for Agriculture Finance in Nigeria, a **\$100M program aimed at boosting the agriculture sector**.
- The Jonathan Administration created 1.6 million new jobs in 2013, alone.
- President Jonathan established a job creation board in late 2014 with the goal of creating 3 million jobs over a 12-month period.
- Under President Jonathan's tenure, Nigeria went from becoming the largest importer of rice in West Africa to **its largest exporter of rice**.
- President Jonathan has worked diligently with the leaders of other nations to **form trade agreements that will further diversify Nigerian economy**.
 - This includes a major liberalization of trade relations with Kenya and the formation of a trade council with France.
- Inflation has plummeted under President Jonathan's policies. Between May 2010 - May 2014, the inflation rate dropped from 12.9% to 8%.
- President Jonathan has promoted burgeoning industries in Nigeria such as the film industry, which alone generates nearly **\$600M annually and employs 1 million Nigerians**.
- In 2014, President Jonathan's government undertook the badly needed step of accurately calculating Nigeria's GDP – a process called “rebasing”—something that had not been done in **24 years**, according to *The Economist*.

Accountability/Transparency

- President Jonathan is the first president in Nigeria's history to sign a Performance Management Contract with his ministers, ***allowing for heightened monitoring and oversight*** - giving the public a sense of trust in governmental and economic bodies.
 - Ministers present the scorecards from their evaluation to the public for its review.
- President Jonathan delivered a comprehensive "Midterm Report" on the status of his campaign promises, including his track record on the economy, so that the ***public could gauge his performance and hold him accountable***.

Fact Sheet: Nigerian Efforts To Defeat Boko Haram

Background

- Boko Haram is an Islamist sect that has waged a violent campaign of terror against the Nigerian people and government since 2009. *The terrorist group - like ISIS - aspires to create a fundamentalist Islamic state in central Africa.*
- Boko Haram emerged in the early 2000s, advocating for the use of strict Islamic law in Nigeria. The name “Boko Haram” is often translated as “*Western education is forbidden.*” While the group was responsible for several smaller acts of violence early on, the death of group founder Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 resulted in a splintered leadership that steered the group in a more radical direction.
- Conflict between Boko Haram and the Nigerian government has had a devastating impact in the country’s Northern region since the conflict began in 2009: Over 13,000 people murdered in related violence and more than 1.6 million people displaced by the conflict between the group and the Nigerian government.^{1 2}
- The terrorist group grabbed international headlines in April 2014. In the middle of the night of April 14th a group of gunmen broke into an all-girls school. Several hundred students were there to take final exams. The gunmen lured approximately 300 schoolgirls outside before setting fire to the school building and forcing the girls onto trucks. Despite efforts by the Nigerian government and the international community, the whereabouts of most of these girls is still unknown—it is believed many have been married off to Boko Haram members.
- Boko Haram is primarily based in remote parts of Nigeria’s North East Zone, which has made it exceedingly difficult for military counter assaults to be successfully executed.

Nigeria’s Response to Boko Haram

Military and Diplomatic Responses

- To combat the rise of Boko Haram, President Jonathan ordered the *Nigerian government to adopt emergency powers* in the three States in which Boko Haram operates across northeast Nigeria. The adoption of emergency powers gave the military increased latitude in their fight against Boko Haram.

¹ <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/op-eds/2015/guehenno-10-wars-to-watch-in-2015.aspx>

² <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigerian-leader-launches-election-bid-amid-troubles-28082796>

- President Jonathan has pressed the United States for **military and intelligence aid**:
 - To better inform efforts to defeat Boko Haram, envoys of Nigeria's government requested "information on Boko Haram activities derived from intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance overflights of northeastern Nigeria."³
 - Nigeria also requested a variety of military equipment, including mine-resistant armored personnel vehicles, night vision goggles and communications equipment.
 - Rallying support to the fight against Boko Haram, while attending a May 2014 summit in Paris, President Jonathan stood with leaders from Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin in pledging to wage "total war" on Boko Haram.⁴ He doubled down on these remarks in August 2014, when at a summit of American and African leaders in Washington, DC he spoke "about the need for more effective global action to counter terrorism."⁵
- Like ISIS, the threat posed by Boko Haram is both regional and international.
 - Increasingly, Boko Haram is drawing its finances, armaments and foot soldiers from neighboring countries, like Cameroon.⁶ Boko Haram has also expanded operations into Cameroon. Cameroon's government responded with air strikes in late December in an attempt to push back Boko Haram.⁷
 - Conflicts in Libya, Mali and the Central African Republic have created what the Nigerian government terms a "corridor of uncertainty" that helps drive key resources to Boko Haram.⁸
- Recognizing the shifting nature of the fight against Boko Haram, President Jonathan called for international action to quickly end the conflict in Libya, as opposed to limiting the response to only to Nigerian forces.
 - In January 2013, **President Jonathan also dispatched 600 Nigerian troops** to help lead a UN Security Council-mandated intervention force to bring peace to Mali. This **turned back an Islamist-affiliated insurgency affiliated with Boko Haram and eliminating a potential training ground for Boko Haram.**^{9 10}

³ <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/nigeria-requested-us-intel-military-gear-fight-terror/story?id=23662022&singlePage=true>

⁴ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/17/west-african-countries-must-unite-fight-boko-haram-nigeria>

⁵ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/in-nigeria-campaign-against-boko-haram-militants-brings-fears-of-military-excesses/2014/08/07/2308b700-1db0-11e4-ae54-0cfe1f974f8a_story.html

⁶ <http://www.tribune.com.ng/quicklinkss/politics/item/23408-how-boko-haram-recruits-members-and-finance-its-operations>

⁷ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2889894/Cameroon-says-fights-Boko-Haram-attacks-kills-41-militants.html>

⁸ 2015: The Challenge of Boko Haram. Henry Omoregie, Scholars for Justice, Abuja

⁹ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/mali/9802010/France-sends-more-troops-to-Mali-as-UN-backs-intervention.html>

¹⁰ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/nigerian-islamist-militants-return-from-mali-with-weapons-skills/2013/05/31/d377579e-c628-11e2-9cd9-3b9a22a4000a_story.html

- President Jonathan has also secured several types of aid from the United States. Military and civilian advisors were deployed in May 2014 and the American intelligence has provided information on Boko Haram's activities. The US State and Defense Departments have launched a **\$40 million fund** for Nigeria and neighboring countries to counter Boko Haram.¹¹
- Diplomatically, America has also supported the Nigerian government by formally designating Boko Haram as a terrorist organization, isolating their leaders. The American and Nigerian governments worked closely together to push the United Nations to designate Boko Haram as a terrorist organization. That designation took effect in May 2014, and prohibits arms sales, freezes assets, restricts movement and encourages regional cooperation.¹²

Economic Development as Response

- President Jonathan has initiated several efforts to ensure long-term stability and development in impoverished areas, which have been targeted by Boko Haram.
 - Victims Support Fund
 - This fund is intended to provide “financial and material support to individuals who have lost their source of livelihood” in the course of Boko Haram’s attacks. **President Jonathan has personally raised over \$490 million for the fund.**¹³
 - Presidential Initiative for the North East
 - This economic development program aims to improve infrastructure and economic growth in North East Nigeria.

Defeating Boko Haram through access to education

- Through the Safe School Initiative, the Jonathan Administration has taken major strides to provide security for students and schools in the violence-plagued North. This initiative will provide **\$120 million** in funding from governmental, private sector and international development sources.
- To further cut into Boko Haram’s recruitment base and bolster economic growth, President Jonathan developed the **Almajiri System of Education**. This system **integrates basic Western education alongside Islamic education**. Aimed at improving the education system in the North, Almajiri schools are critical tools in combating religious fanaticism and providing a worthwhile education.
- To date, **125 Almajiri schools** have been built, with **275 more planned**.

¹¹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/14/fact-sheet-us-efforts-assist-nigerian-government-its-fight-against-boko->

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2014/08/01/africas-richest-man-aliko-dangote-tony-elumelu-others-raise-400-million-for-terror-victims/>

- *BACKGROUND: The Economist* spoke to the need for a reformed school system and the merits of Almajiri schools:

“Today these institutions are unregulated and only the poorest enroll in them. Too often, *mallams* [teachers] are untrained and incapable of providing a decent level of religious, let alone secular, education. Instead, they milk their pupils for cash. The government estimates that there are 9 million...children... Some are as young as four when they are sent away from home. Poor and often illiterate, these boys make easy pickings as recruits for Boko Haram...”

“Aware of the problem, the government has poured millions of dollars into building over 100 *almajiri* schools with a more modern curriculum in northern states, so that students can get a traditional Koranic education alongside Western-style classes in reading, maths and science, plus vocational training.”¹⁴

¹⁴ <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21608809-trying-teach-children-not-be-extremists-mixing-modern-and>

FACT SHEET: Nigeria's Successful Ebola Response and Containment Strategy

Immediately following the first documented case of Ebola in Nigeria (July 2014), President Goodluck Jonathan's Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) implemented a response strategy focused on **treatment, containment** and **education**. Critical pieces of these efforts continue to be in place to ensure the safety of the people of Nigeria.

The government managed a massive effort, coordinating with state, federal and international partners to ensure cases were reported, patients were monitored and that the public was protected. While a national Ebola response plan existed, it had never been implemented, and as a result the Nigerian government faced unforeseen challenges. Despite these obstacles, **Nigeria has successfully contained the Ebola virus.**

As a result of its aggressive and comprehensive approach, Nigeria experienced only **8 deaths out of 19 confirmed Ebola cases** – compared to the nearly 8,000 deaths in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. [SOURCE: Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. *Ebola Virus Disease Response: Report on the Nigerian Experience*. December 2014].

Treatment/Management

Nigeria effectively managed the confirmed and suspected cases in both Lagos (Lagos state) and Port Harcourt (Rivers state). These successes can be attributed, in large part, to the government's **early decision to take responsibility** for responding to this crisis and **being nimble in its efforts**. At both the federal and state levels, the government created incentives for the doctors, nurses and other high-risk individuals necessary to treat patients and prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

- Immediately following the first confirmed case of Ebola in Nigeria, an Ebola Emergency Operations Center (EEOC) was established to manage the response under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) and the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC). They partnered with the Lagos State government and technical partners.
- The EEOC comprised a number of teams working on different aspects of the response activities, including coordination and administration, case management, infection control and psychosocial support, epidemiology, social mobilization, monitoring points of entry, and logistics.
- The EEOC is led by an Incident Manager who is accountable to both the Minister of Health and the Project Director of the NCDC. The Incident Manager provides oversight and leadership toward the overarching goal of containing the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria.
 - The EEOC model in Nigeria is innovative -- it is not a fixed or bureaucratic structure. For example, the national EEOC was established in Lagos, as this was the epicenter of the outbreak. When the outbreak occurred in Port Harcourt, the national EEOC moved to Port Harcourt to focus on establishing the same response process it had previously established in Lagos, where the Deputy Incident Manager remained to steer affairs there.

[SOURCE: Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. *Ebola Virus Disease Response: Report on the Nigerian Experience*. December 2014].

Coordination

From the start, the government of Nigeria has worked closely with key partners on the response, including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Doctors Without Borders. The collaboration with these partners has proven to be a **critical piece of the successful response** because these organizations were able to leverage their comparative advantage while transferring knowledge and skills.

- In addition to this, the Incident Manager ensures that WHO, CDC, UNICEF and MSF, along with the Deputy Incident Managers and other Team Leads, form a part of a Strategy Group that meets daily and supports him in making policy decisions and removing bottlenecks that creep up daily. This innovative model has been very efficient.

Early Detection

Tracking

Every contact of the Ebola patients in Lagos and Port Harcourt was traced, provided thermometers and monitored in person during a 21-day period, after which individuals were cleared of having contracted the disease. This aggressive approach has been a critical element of Nigeria's containment strategy.

- In Lagos and Rivers State, contacts were visited on a daily basis by trained personnel who monitored their condition for early signs and symptoms of Ebola.
- The follow-up of identified contacts in Lagos has been consistently high, with approximately 90% of contacts seen on a daily basis.
- Suspected cases identified through contact tracing were brought to the case management team for further evaluation **within an hour of detection.**
- Tracing teams were aided by the ***use of smartphones***, which were used by workers on the front lines to register and monitor all contacts. Contacts that develop symptoms automatically trigger messages and alerts to the team as well as the case management team for immediate action. New officers and volunteers who join the contact tracing teams are trained by the data management/e-health teams to use the phones to report on the contacts. The reports are received in real time at the EEOC and reviewed. Any alerts requiring action (e.g. contacts with fever of 38°C or above or with any two of the other symptoms in the standard case definition) are responded to within one hour by the Swift Action Team (SWAT) of the Epidemiology and Contact Tracing Team.

Screening

Because the initial case in Nigeria was an imported case that traveled by air, the EEOC immediately **mobilized border point screenings for both air and land points of entry.** For Port

Harcourt, seaports are more critical than land borders, and this has been factored in the Port Harcourt response.

- Screening is conducted at all border points with increased capacities for isolation of possible patients and their rapid transfer to isolation wards in both Lagos and Port Harcourt. Training at points of entry focused on how to identify contacts, early symptoms for suspected and probable Ebola cases, and how to prevent such cases from travelling through the point of entry.

[SOURCE: Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. *Ebola Virus Disease Response: Report on the Nigerian Experience*. December 2014].

Education

Information management, communication and social mobilization were at the heart of the rapid response to the current Ebola outbreak in Nigeria.

- Social Mobilization, Communications and Health Promotion teams were created with the strategic goal of reducing the risk of transmission of Ebola to zero level by addressing risky behavioral and cultural practices that could propagate the transmission of Ebola in communities.
- Among the teams' responsibilities is providing complete and correct information to the public in order to assuage panic and rumors, and to limit misinformation and misunderstanding concerning Ebola.
- Nigeria's education strategy was multi-faceted and far-reaching:
 - **House-to-House:** House-to-house interpersonal communication has been conducted to ensure that households are educated on, first, why they must report to a health facility with any sign or symptom of Ebola; and second, on why they should not discriminate against those affected by Ebola. During these interactions with households, the teams also are specifically focusing on teaching proper hand washing skills and re-enforcing hygiene messages.
 - **Mass Media:** Public health physicians on the team have appeared on national and local live radio and television broadcasts to educate the public on Ebola. Public announcements have been made on radio, television and in national, regional and local publications in Lagos and Port Harcourt. The team also provides public service announcements (PSAs) to local stations, as well as the airport, and monitors all media coverage on Ebola for prompt correction and modifications. In addition to these efforts, Nigerian officials have held media briefings, press conferences and daily media briefings.
 - **Social/Digital Media:** A dedicated website for easy information access on Ebola is still running [www.Ebolaaalert.org]. Live chats are also handled through this website and a mobile app (Ebolacheckup.Ebolaaalert.org). Information is also provided through social media channels including Twitter (@Ebolaaalert) and Facebook (facebook.com/Ebolaaalert).

- **Community Engagement:** Through mass gatherings and community outreach efforts, the team has engaged local stakeholders in education efforts including: entertainers/celebrities, educators (including all school principals), religious leaders, traditional rulers, youth leaders, women's organisations, road transport workers, hoteliers, oil and gas workers, healthcare professionals and many others.
 - A community sensitization tour of all 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) led by the Commissioner for Health has also been launched. To date, 5 LGAs have been reached. Ebola Response Committees have been inaugurated at each LGA and more rallies and road shows are being planned in partnership with stakeholders.
 - **Dedicated Help Lines:** A dedicated toll-free EBOLA Helpline (800-EBOLA-HELP) has been established since the beginning of the outbreak and the efficiency of this call center is being improved daily.
 - **Training:** General and private medical practitioners, nurses, industrial health workers, Red Cross volunteers and other cadres of medical personnel have been trained on Ebola using standard protocols and equipment. More training is planned to strengthen and improve response.
- This strategy is geared towards two goals: 1) Preventing a community outbreak; and 2) Reducing stigma and discrimination, which can be a barrier to successful implementation of the containment strategy.

[SOURCE: Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health. *Ebola Virus Disease Response: Report on the Nigerian Experience*. December 2014].

Preparing for Future Issues

Information from two studies completed in Lagos are informing further social mobilization and healthcare worker training efforts.

Findings of the studies, presented to the EEOC, showed gaps in knowledge and practice among the community members. There were also preparedness deficiencies in most of the health care facilities, mostly related to infection control, training and coordinating structure for Ebola response.

The first study was community-based research that assessed the knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of community members regarding Ebola. The second was a health facility-based study that assessed the level of preparedness of health facilities to manage Ebola, as well as assessing KAP of health care workers. A third operational study on the assessment of psychosocial status of Ebola cases and contacts is at the final stage of completion.

Nigeria's Expanded Education Opportunities

A Reform-Minder Leader

- Upon entering office, President Jonathan made it a top priority to implement reforms that would expand access to schools and increase the quality of education in Nigeria.
 - President Jonathan has maintained that a better national education program is the best way to lift many of the country's citizens out of poverty.
- Recognizing Nigeria's biggest educational problems – including poor performing schools and low literacy and participation rates – President Jonathan set a bold, ambitious goal to get the country's nearly 11 million out-of-school children back into the education system, particularly in the impoverished Northern region. This effort is also aimed at raising the country's literacy rate, which has for years ranked among the lowest countries.
 - To that end, President Jonathan has built **9 new universities** and **1,200 new primary and secondary schools** in the three Northern Zones.

Combating Boko Haram Through Education

- President Jonathan developed the concept of the Almajiri System of Education, which integrates basic Western education alongside Islamic education. Aimed at improving the education system in the North, Almajiri schools are critical tools in combating religious fanaticism and providing a worthwhile education.
 - *The Economist* on the need for a reformed school system and the merits of Almajiri schools: "Today these institutions are unregulated and only the poorest enroll in them. Too often, *mallams* [teachers] are untrained and incapable of providing a decent level of religious, let alone secular, education. Instead, they milk their pupils for cash. The government estimates that there are 9 million...children... Some are as young as four when they are sent away from home. Poor and often illiterate, these boys make easy pickings as recruits for Boko Haram..."

"Aware of the problem, the government has poured millions of dollars into building over 100 *almajiri* schools with a more modern curriculum in northern states, so that students can get a traditional Koranic education alongside Western-style classes in reading, maths and science, plus vocational training."¹

¹ <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21608809-trying-teach-children-not-be-extremists-mixing-modern-and>

- Through its Safe School Initiative, the Jonathan Administration has also taken major strides to provide security for students and schools in the violence-plagued North. This initiative is expected to provide \$120 million in funding from governmental, private sector and international development sources.

Accomplishments

- As a result of President Jonathan's reforms, school enrollment have steadily risen in the Northern Zones.
 - Primary and secondary **education rates up by 33%** in North Central Zone (where pre-primary enrollment rates are up by 113%), **22% in North East Zone** and **4.5% in the North West Zone**.
- Literacy rates have risen in several states.
 - Notably, up 7% in North Central Zone.
- Thought leaders across the world have praised President Jonathan's efforts to replace the nation's antiquated (and often radical) school system with Almajiri schools so that students may receive a more holistic education.²
 - From a report published by Usmanu Danfodiyo University in Nigeria: *"...government came in to rescue the deteriorating state of the system with the modern system, thereby making the beneficiaries (Almajirai) learn both the Almajiri education and the modern education system simultaneously."* (emphasis added).

²[http://www.academia.edu/3271725/Problems and Prospects of Almajiri Education in northern Nigeria](http://www.academia.edu/3271725/Problems_and_Prospects_of_Almajiri_Education_in_northern_Nigeria)

There is a genocide happening in Nigeria, and it's only going to get worse if the world continues to stand by.

Boko Haram, the extremist terror group that abducted hundreds of schoolgirls in northeastern Nigeria last year and forced them into marriage or the African slave trade, has killed tens of thousands of Nigerians in recent years. They elevated their profile with the kidnapping that brought an outcry from politicians, celebrities and leading human rights activists.

The world and Twitter have since moved on – with not a single girl rescued. And, Boko Haram has reacted with more brutality and force by using the kidnapped girls as suicide bombers to attack innocent civilians and politically sensitive targets as the country faces an election in the coming weeks.

Boko Haram's reign of terror is about preventing Western education in favor of spreading its radical Islamic ideology. It has been a sustained campaign that goes back more than five years, with the efforts by the Nigerian government to eliminate this enemy unsuccessful.

The latest attack on the town of Baga in Nigeria's Borno state razed the town and killed hundreds of civilians – men, women and children. We need to respond collectively and forcefully to stop this savagery. Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan has received criticism for what appears to be the military's feeble response to the group's attacks, but the reality is, he was dealt a terrible hand when he entered office in 2010, having to work with a greatly under-supplied and ill-trained army that had long been known for corruption within the ranks.

Recognizing the long-term threat posed by Boko Haram and the need for a suitable military force, President Jonathan has spent his tenure in office rooting out corruption and shoring up weak spots in Nigeria's armed services. These steps have been critical to putting Nigeria's defense infrastructure on the right path and allowed for some recent successful counter-offensive efforts. But it is widely agreed that the military is still not capable of singlehandedly defeating Boko Haram. To this end, President Jonathan has been calling for military advice and logistical assistance from the international community. It is long past time that they answer his call.

Neighboring countries Chad and Cameroon - both of which have witnessed terrorist activities on their borders - have recently stepped up and helped launch successful attacks against Boko Haram. The African Union in recent days committed a force of 7,500 troops to assist Nigeria in combat operation. The UN Security Council must now approve the plan.

From the West, the United States has heard the call from the Nigerian government and recently became more engaged on the issue; Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to

the nation in late January to meet with President Jonathan. The U.S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for African Affairs recently said that the United States is "prepared to provide technical support, training and equipment to fight the Boko Haram group."

The combination of an improved domestic military force and increased international engagement has resulted in the first substantive victories over Boko Haram in months, killing hundreds of militants along Nigeria's eastern border with Cameroon and in Maiduguri, the capital of the state of Borno. The strategy now being developed and implemented is one that gives Nigeria and its neighbors their best opportunity yet to reclaim the territory seized by Boko Haram.

However, Nigeria's upcoming presidential election - being held this month - poses a grave risk to forward progress, as polls show opposition leader General Muhammadu Buhari within striking distance of President Jonathan. Buhari, who has a checkered past that includes supporting Sharia law, has subscribed to an authoritarian governing philosophy. He has been called out for harboring a radical agenda - just the kind of unstable leadership that could throw the nation into further turmoil and derail the successful strategy now being put in place.

As Nigerians go to the polls later this month, they will have one of the most important decisions to make - continue on a path of increased collaboration with the international community and stepped up attacks on Boko Haram, or revert to the leadership of a dictator from another era that will threaten the stability of the region. The international community will be closely watching the election results and could stake its future involvement in the conflict based on the outcome. It is my hope that Nigeria will choose to stay on a path that will ultimately lead to peace, tranquility and continued prosperity.